

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:JET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, CE, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: IVP PROGRAM

REF: A) COLOMBO 1694; B) STATE 131880

1. SUMMARY: CEYLONSE AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE CALLED ON ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN JUNE 28 AND REITERATED HIS CONCERN THAT GSL BE CONSULTED PRIOR AWARDING PARTIAL IV GRANTS. END SUMMARY

2. BASED ON EMBASSY COMMENTS (REF A) AND CU CONCERNS LAINGEN NOTED DIFFICULTIES OF ARRANGING FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION ON PARTIAL IV GRANTS STRESSING SHORTNESS OF LEAD TIME AND FACT THAT GRANTEES NORMALLY HAVE ALREADY LEFT SRI LANKA AT TIME GRANT WRITTEN. HE ALSO ADDED THAT ON MATTER OF FULL GRANTS, WE WERE ALWAYS CAREFUL TO CONSULT WITH GSL FIRST ON SELECTION OF CANDIDATES.

3. KANAKARANTE INSISTED GSL HAS RIGHT TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON ANY IV GRANTEES, FULL OR PARTIAL. AS EXAMPLE OF HIS CONCERN, HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, PARTICULARLY FOR VIOLATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS; MIGHT BE UNKNOWINGLY INVITED AND CAUSE CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT TO PROGRAM. CONCEEDING THAT THIS HAD NEVER HAPPENED, HE NOTED FUTURE
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POSSIBILITY.

4. KANAKARATNE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH ARRANGING FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION DECLARING GSL WOULD HAVE ANSWER BACK WITHIN "AT MOST A DAY." HE REFERRED TO LONG-STANDING MDFA CIRCULAR NOTE WHICH OUTLINES REGULATIONS REQUIRING PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH GSL ON ANY AND ALL FOREIGN TRAVEL GRANTS. INDICATING HE HAD ALREADY SENT PRELIMINARY VIEWS TO MDFA, HE STATED HE WOULD QUESTION CONTINUATION IV PROGRAM IF SOME ARRANGEMENT COULD NOT BE WORKED OUT.

5. LAINGEN REPLIED THAT WE WOULD LOOK AT THE MATTER ONCE GAIN AND AGREED THE PROBLEM WAS ONE OF MECHANICS NOT OF PRINCIPLE. FOR OUR PART, WE DID NOT WISH PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION TO JEOPARDIZE CHANCES FOR A GRANTEE TO COME HERE UNDER A PROGRAM WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS ENDORSE.

6. LAINGEN ALSO ADVISED KANAKARATNE THAT TWO CEYLONSE, ELLIOT GUNASEKERA AND RATNASIRI WICKRAMANAYAKA, WOULD BE TRAVELLING ON GRANTS FROM INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CENTER TO ATTEND ASIAN WORKSHOP FOR LEGAL SERVICES TO THE POOR SPONSORED BY INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CENTER IN SAN FRANCISCO JULY 15 TO AUGUST 31, AND DEPARTMENT PLANS SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUE PARTIAL IV GRANTS FOR TWO WEEKS TRAVEL.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD NOW DISCUSS THIS MATTER INFORMALLY WITH MDFA TO CHECK ATMOSPHERE THERE, PROBE WHAT MDFA REQUIREMENTS ARE, AND SEE IF SOME SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT COULD NOT BE WORKED OUT TO SATISFY KANAKARATNE'S CONCERNS AND YET PRESERVE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY FOR OUR PROGRAMMING.

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